



Est: 1918

Brown County Beekeepers Association Newsletter

**December
2021**

Website
BCBA

www.browncountybeekeepers.com

Facebook (2)

**Northeast WI
Beekeepers**

Join Today
(beekeepers
helping
beekeepers site)

Coffee and Bees!

**December 11th
8:00 am**

**Luna Coffee
Bellevue
Off of GV on Monroe**

BCBA Mission Statement:

We are dedicated to promoting sustainable, responsible, and healthy beekeeping practices in Northeast Wisconsin for both experienced and first-time beekeepers. We strive to create a fun environment where learning opportunities exist for association members and the general public.

President's Message:

Wishing each of you a wonderful Holiday Season with friends and family. Our November Products of the Hive was a very festive Club event which capped off a great year. It is always great to see members participating and volunteering at our various events throughout the year. This is such a big part of creating an engaged and vibrant club. Our hope is to continue providing a fun and learning environment in 2022.

I hope your bees are in good shape for the winter. We just put on our moisture wicking boxes and insulated inner covers. Please monitor your hive's resources and provide backup feeding if required. See what's going on in the hive section for additional information.

With Christmas approaching the entire Leadership Team wishes each of you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you at the January meeting or one of the other bee events noted in the newsletter.

Have a Great Christmas!
Dave Elsen

Interesting Honey Bee Fact(s):

- In Greek mythology, Apollo is credited as being the first beekeeper.
- In ancient Egypt, people paid their taxes with honey.
- The ancient Greeks minted coins with bees on them.
- Beekeeping is said to be the second oldest profession.

Other Notes

President's message continued:

As a Leadership Team we strive to provide timely and relevant education and a variety of events that appeal to our members and the public. Let's continue this momentum into 2022 and have another great year. I have a few requests:

1. If you have ideas for club events or education in 2022 please reach out to me at president@browncountybeekeepers.com
2. I also encourage you to renew your membership and to continue having Brown County Beekeepers as part of your beekeeping journey. Follow this link for renewal info <https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

Help needed:

Hello, my name is Emily Skala and I'm a member of the Pulaski FFA and a current member of the Brown County Beekeepers Association. I have been trying to get the FFA to have some hives, and this year we did! We currently have 2 hives but are in dire need of equipment. Anything would be appreciated, from frames and deep boxes to hive tools. Even if you can't donate, please pass on the word to someone you know. Contact Emily if you can help out - 23emskala@pulaskischools.org

Membership:

Not too early to renew your membership. We again will be running an early renewal raffle for members who renew before January 1. Renew at a meeting or online at <https://browncountybeekeepers.com/about/join/>

Upcoming Meetings

Coffee and Bees

(Second Tuesday of every month)

December 11th, 8:00 AM, Luna Coffee, off of GV on Monroe (Bellevue)

BCBA January Meeting (No December Meeting)

Wednesday, January 19th

6:30 – 8:00 at Green Bay Botanical Gardens

Education

Success Factors in Successful Beekeeping

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83804523024?pwd=WFE5UEphazhETHpUbVIXSGZ1Nk1jQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 0452 3024

Passcode: 073408

Don't miss our fantastic lineup of education and topics for this year! Make note and put them on your calendar! Some local experts and nationally renowned beekeeping speakers are part of this lineup!!

Dates	Topic	Edu Type	Presenter
Jan 19 '22	Success Factors in Successful Beekeeping	Reg	Kelly Kulhanek, Ph. D. Washington State University
Feb 18, 22	Queen Rearing	Reg	Augie Linskins
Mar 18, 22	Spring Management	Reg	Dave Elsen and Julie Mazzoleni
Apr 20, 22	Oxalic Acid Hive Health, What an Inspector looks for	MBM Reg	Dick Sturm, Julie Mazzoleni and Carl Fisher Wisconsin State Inspector
May 18, 22	Beginning Beekeeping	Reg	Chelsa Cook Ph. D., Marquette
Apr 21 '21	Installing Bees Spring Management	MBM Reg	Rich Schneider, Capital Bee Supply
Jun 14, 22	Topic TBD (Special Date)	Reg	Dr. Jamie Ellis, University of Florida
July 20, 22	Topic TBD		
Aug 17, 22	Honey Extraction Over-wintering Hives	MBM Reg	TBD
Sep 21, 22	Topic TBD		
Oct 19, 22	Topic TBD		
Nov 16, 22	Topic TBD		
December	No Meeting		

MBM (Meeting Before the Meeting), Reg (Regular meeting)

November Highlights!

Hope you didn't miss them!

Emily Skala
"First year Beekeeping"



Products of the Hive!

Candles, Candy,
wraps, lotions, scents,
wax and Mead!



DECEMBER - WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WORLD OF BEES

Seasonal conditions

In Brown County, Wisconsin

Average low temperature - 18

Average high - 32

Average Precipitation – 1.71 inches

Average Snow – 10.98 inches

In the hive

- The bees are in their winter cluster and there is little to no egg laying in December.

Equipment

- Order any replacement bees (packages, nucs, or queens) as soon as possible; producers generally run out fast.
- Clean your honey house, freezer, or other areas that are chaotic/full in the active season.
- Take inventory. Fix, clean/sterilize, purchase, assemble, and paint equipment as needed.

Yard maintenance

- Remove ice blocking the hive entrances, to give the colonies better ventilation.
- Don't worry about snow around the hive body which may help insulate the bees.

Education

- Don't forget to renew your membership in the club and get the meetings on your calendar.
- Spend this time reflecting on what went well and what you might change next year.
- Plan for your upcoming year: do you want to downsize or scale up, try out a new form of honey production, get into the pollination business, or something else?
- Catch up on Bee Culture and American Bee Journal – and renew your subscription!

Club & Bee Keeping History

and other interesting stories

Bees in the Netherlands trained to detect COVID-19 infections

AMSTERDAM, May 6, 2021 (Reuters) - Dutch researchers have trained bees, which have an unusually keen sense of smell, to identify samples infected with COVID-19, a finding they said could cut waiting times for test results to just seconds.

To train the bees, scientists in the bio-veterinary research laboratory at Wageningen University gave them sugary water as a reward after showing them samples infected with COVID-19. They would get no reward after being shown a non-infected sample.

Having got used to the system, the bees were able to spontaneously extend their tongues to receive a reward when presented with an infected sample, said Wim van der Poel, a professor of virology who took part in the project.

"We collect normal honeybees from a beekeeper and we put the bees in harnesses," he said. "Right after presenting a positive sample we also present them with sugar water. And what the bees do is they extend their proboscis to take the sugar water."

The extending of the bees' straw-like tongues to drink is confirmation of a positive coronavirus test result, according to the researchers.

It can take hours or days to get a COVID-19 test result, but the response from the bees is immediate. The method is also cheap, potentially making it useful for countries where tests are scarce, they said.

But Dirk de Graaf, a professor who studies bees, insects and animal immunology at Ghent University in Belgium, said he did not see the technique replacing more conventional forms of COVID-19 testing in the near future.

"It is a good idea, but I would prefer to carry out tests using the classic diagnostic tools rather than using honeybees for this. I am a huge bee lover, but I would use the bees for other purposes than detecting COVID-19," he said.

The technique of "insect sniffing" was effectively tested by the U.S. Dept. of Defense to detect explosives and toxins in the 1990s, De Graaf said.

Moths, bees and wasps were used "for safety purposes to detect explosives as well as for medical diagnosis," he said.

But too little is known about the Wageningen testing to determine its true effectiveness, he said, although he was open to the idea of bee testing providing an indication of illness when PCR tests were unavailable.

Club Discounts

Club Sponsor – Hansen Honey Farm, Rhinelander, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- Note: You must use specific code for these discounts.
- Contact BCBA Secretary for this code! (secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com)

Club Sponsor – Let It Bee, Inc., Greenville, WI

- 15% Discount for all first time purchases
- 5% discount for all BCBA members for ongoing purchase
- When purchasing ***in-store only***, let them know you are a member of the BCBA.

Bee Culture and American Bee Journal Subscriptions



ABJ Association
Member Subscriptio



Bee Culture
Subscription.pdf

BCBA Leadership

President: Dave Elsen
president@browncountybeekeepers.com

Vice President:
Julie Mazzoleni
vicepresident@browncountybeekeepers.com

Secretary:
Bob Michiels
secretary@browncountybeekeepers.com

Treasurer:
Tom Cashman
Tcash99930@aol.com

Social Media Chair:
Carl Fisher
info@browncountybeekeepers.com

Membership Chair:
OPEN

Education Chair:
OPEN

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WHPA Youth Program Mentors: Contact Julie Mazzoleni

OPEN POSITIONS

Education Chair AND Membership Chair: Contact Dave Elsen

Free Education Opportunity

Capitol Bee Supply

Check out the link below for some **FREE** e-learning topics by
<https://www.facebook.com/CapitolBeeSupply/posts/2890729754299781>



Club Education Reimbursement Opportunity

Club members are eligible for up to \$25/ calendar year for continuing education

Eligibility Guidelines:

- Must be a **current member** for at least **12 consecutive months**.
- Member must submit their request to the Leadership Team prior to the event including details on how it aligns to the Club's Mission.

Note: BCBA sponsored events, books or magazines not eligible for reimbursements.

Club Expectations of Members Receiving Education Reimbursement

- Overview of the education to the club or an education session.
- Write-up with photos and/or video for club publication.